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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/654,444	09/01/00	BRENNAN	S CGTES.0143
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WM02/1106

EXAMINER

AGDEFFA, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2642

DATE MAILED: 11/06/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/654,444

Applicant(s)

BRENNAN ET AL.

Examiner

Hector A. Agdeppa

Art Unit

2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

1. Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 8, 10 – 15, 17 – 19, 21 – 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Culli et al.

Culli et al. teaches a local routing system and method that can also handle intra-LATA, inter-LATA, directory assistance-type calls, as well as calls involving interexchange carriers, international calls, etc., wherein after a call is originated, determining whether a called party is inside a local calling scope of the calling party and depending on whether the above is true or not and what the originating and terminating LATAs are after a comparison of both, selecting appropriate carriers for the call, whether the call is deemed to be a local call, intra-LATA call, or inter-LATA call. Culli et al. further teaches the use of customized calling plans to affect call routing read as the claimed "extended dialing plans." Inherent in the invention of Culli et al. are originating and terminating rate centers as claimed in the present invention so as to determine for example, whether or not a call should be free, or in the case when various billing rates are invoked, how to correctly bill the call and furthermore, accessing these rate centers

Art Unit: 2642

and their related databases or tables for the above purpose. This is accomplished via a classifier, a router, and a determiner and various filters, integrated into an AIN environment by analyzing the calling number and/or called number, as well as the originating and terminating NPA-NXX, if so desired. (Col. 2, line 17 – Col. 3, line 47, Col. 5, line 17 – Col. 6, line 46, Col. 7, lines 37 – 64, Col. 9, line 53 – Col. 15, line 13, Col. 17, line 12 – Col. 24, line 48)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 5, 9, 16, 20, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Culli et al.

Art Unit: 2642

With regard to claims 5 and 16, Culli et al. only mentions the use of NPA-NXX combinations.

However, as mentioned in the specification of the present invention, NPA-NXX-X combinations may need to be considered in the case of 1K pooling.

To integrate this feature into the invention of Culli et al. would simply be an obvious extension of function to include various types of calling/called numbers for which there is overwhelming motivation in the present state of the telecommunications arts.

With regard to claims 9, 20, and 25, keys or shortened lds and the like are well known in the art and while Culli et al. does not specifically make mention of LATA keys, Culli et al. does make mention of routing lds and various other keys relating to the system used for locating or accessing various data tables as is very well known in the art, and it could be considered to be inherent or at the very least, obvious to one skilled in the art to use keys in the invention of Culli et al.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Pat No 5,781,620 (Montgomery et al.) teaches a method and system for toll carrier selection. US Pat No 5,550,912 (Akinpelu et al) teaches connections between a toll network and multiple local networks.

Art Unit: 2642

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hector A. Agdeppa whose telephone number is 703-305-1844. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon thru Fri 9:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on 703-305-4731. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-5858 for regular communications and 703-308-5403 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

H.A.A.
October 29, 2001



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